

3. Consultation with the Public

3.1 To further inform my decision around the proposed precept for 2019/20 consultation has been undertaken with the public to ascertain their feedback and thoughts on this subject. This is the first time I have consulted on the fire and rescue precept.

3.2 In total, 2741 responses were received from North Yorkshire residents. The consultation was undertaken in numerous ways. A representative telephone survey was conducted, supported by an open, online survey. The open survey was publicised on the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner’s website and promoted via social media. Leaflets located in libraries and other accessible locations across North Yorkshire further promoted the survey as well as providing a paper-based return option. The results of the consultation are detailed in Appendix 1.

3.3 **FIRE:** Overall, a large majority (75%) support the cap increase of £2 in the fire and rescue precept. Half of all respondents (49%) are prepared to pay over the cap of £2 with one in five people (22%) prepared to pay over £5, more than double the cap.

	Telephone (n=975)	Online (n=1735)	Total (n=2710)
Freeze	24%	26%	25%
£2 as per last year	24%	25%	25%
£2 - £5	30%	26%	27%
More than £5	22%	22%	22%
TOTAL who support an increase	76%	74%	75%

*figures may not add to 100% due to rounding

3.4 **POLICE:** More than two-thirds (67%) support an increase in the police precept of at least £11.50. Over a third (37%) opted for an increase in excess of the £11.50, up to the cap of £24 (includes those who said ‘more than £24’).

	Telephone (n=975)	Online (n=1732)	Total (n=2707)
Freeze	35%	32%	33%
£11.50 as per last year	34%	28%	30%
£11.50 - £24	24%	24%	24%
More than £24	7%	16%	13%
TOTAL who support an increase	65%	68%	67%

*figures may not add to 100% due to rounding

Precept Consultation Results 2019/20

Approach

The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's precept consultation aimed to understand how much the North Yorkshire public would be prepared to pay via their council tax for policing and separately for the fire and rescue service next year (2019/20).

A representative telephone survey was undertaken with 1000 North Yorkshire residents, screened to ensure respondents were council tax payers, aged over 18. Quotas were set by gender, age and district to reflect the demography of North Yorkshire. The telephone interviews were undertaken by an independent market research company. In addition, an online, self-completion survey was publicised on the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's website and promoted via social media and leaflets distributed to libraries and other public buildings. Residents could respond via post, phone, email or the online survey resulting in a further 1741 responses. Combined, the total number of participants was 2741. The consultation period ran from 8th December 2018 to 20th January 2019.

All districts were well represented:

Area	Craven	Hambleton	Harrogate	Richmondshire	Ryedale	Scarborough	Selby	York	Total
Responses	175	398	543	284	324	305	249	463	2741
% of Total	6%	15%	20%	10%	12%	11%	9%	17%	100%

Results

The results of the consultation have been analysed by methodology type (representative telephone survey vs open online survey) and are very similar.

Those who support a freeze for the fire and rescue precept are extremely likely (91%) to suggest a freeze for policing. There is a strong correlation between the amount people are prepared to pay and household income with lower income households most likely to opt for a freeze in both precepts and higher income households prepared to pay in excess of the caps.

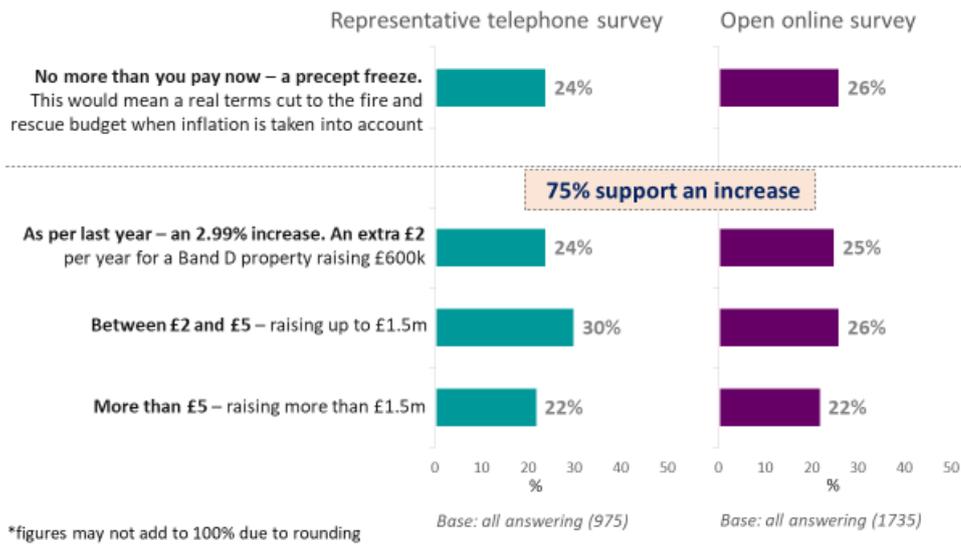
Fire and Rescue

The options presented to participants, based on a Band D property, were:

- **No more than you pay now – a precept freeze.** This would mean a real terms cut to the fire and rescue budget when inflation is taken into account
- **As per last year - a 2.99% increase.** An extra £2 per year for a Band D property raising £600k
- **Between £2 and £5** – raising up to £1.5m
- **More than £5** – raising more than £1.5m

A clear majority (75%) of respondents support an increase of at least the 2.99%/£2 cap in their council tax for the fire and rescue service. Of note is the significant proportion of residents who would pay in excess of the cap (52% telephone survey and 48% online).

Q How much more would you be prepared to pay per year through your council tax for fire and rescue?



Policing

The options, based on a Band D property were:

- **No more than you pay now – a precept freeze.** This would mean a real terms cut to the police budget when inflation is taken into account
- **As per last year – an extra £11.50 per year** for a Band D property raising £3.5m
- **Between £11.50 and £24 – raising up to £7m**
- **More than £24 - raising more than £7m**

Over two-thirds of respondents (67%) were prepared to pay an increase of at least £11.50 in their council tax for policing next year. This correlates directly with responses from the precept survey last year where there was support amongst two-thirds of residents for a £12 increase. In this survey, over a third (37%) would pay in excess of the £11.50, up to the cap of £24. (31% telephone survey and 40% online).

Q How much more would you be prepared to pay per year through your council tax for policing?

